**Opening of new post offices in villages**

t1666. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to open new post offices in villages;

(b) the number of post offices in villages in each State;

(c) whether it is a fact that many villages of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan still do not have post offices despite of fulfilling all norms; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) New Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. The norms for opening new post offices in rural areas are given in enclosed Staterrient-l (See below).

(b) Post Circle-wise data of villages with post offices is given in Statement-ll (See below).

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement-I***

*Level of access promised and norms of opening and retention of post offices in rural areas*

• Population and Distance Norms:

* Normal rural area—Population 3000,3 kms distance from nearest post office.

* Hilly, tribal, desert—Population 500 for individual village and 1000 for group of villages, 3 kms distance from nearest post office.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

• Income Norms for upgradation/opening/retentionofDepartmentalSub Post Offices:

  * Normal Rural areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 2400 per annum.

  * Tribal and hilly areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 4800 per annum.

• Income norms for opening/retention of Branch Post Offices:

  * Normal rural areas — percentage of income to cost 33 1/3%, i.e. subsidy of 66 2/33%.

  * Hilly, tribal, desert areas — percentage of income to cost 15%, i.e. subsidy of 85%.

***Statement-Il***

*Circle-wise information regarding villages with Post offices as on 31-03-2005*

| SI. No. | Circle | No. of villages with Post Offices |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15015 |
| 2. | Assam | 3708 |
| 3. | Bihar | 8622 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 2929 |
| 5. | Delhi | 81 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 8121 |
| | Daman and Diu | 13 |
| | D.N. & Haveli | 38 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2329 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2658 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1687 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 2777 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 8362 |
| 12. | Kerala | 1453 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Lakshdweep | 10 |
| | Mahe (Pondicherry) | 0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 7471 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 16125 |
| | Goa | 215 |
| 15. | North East | |
| | Arunachal Pradesh | 303 |
| | Manipur | 644 |
| | Meghalaya | 299 |
| | Mizoram | 405 |
| | Nagaland | 299 |
| | Tripura | 659 |
| 16. | Orissa | 7572 |
| 17. | Punjab | 3418 |
| | Chandigarh | 8 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 9679 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 10424 |
| | Pondicherry | 59 |
| 20. | Uttaranchal | 2496 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 15778 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 7639 |
| | A&N Islands | 89 |
| | Sikkim | 197 |
| | TOTAL: | 141582 |

**New FDI norms by DoT**

1667. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has prepared new Foreign Direct Investment norms which proposed to give a go ahead to Indian companies for appointing foreign national as chief executive officers and remove remote access restriction which was a major cause of concern for the BPO industry and foreign companies operating in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and